

The Halyard

Charlie's Chatter

AASL was awesome! It was really incredible to be at a national conference and see all the wonderful products that the vendors have to offer. I always enjoy seeing the new line and getting my supply of pens and pads of paper for the upcoming year.

Virginia is so very fortunate to have had such excellent representation at the conference. I would guess that at least 50 Virginia LMS were in attendance. Everywhere I looked I saw another familiar face.

And just think, in just a few weeks we will be gathering in Williamsburg and learning even more exciting ways to link our library programs to academic achievement!

Going to this conference helps me to realize that we are indeed well ahead of many states when it comes to staffing and budgeting. Many states do not require ANY educational experience to be school librarians. I spoke with one librarian that has a budget of \$400.00 for the entire year! Many of us spend

that much in supplies alone. It really helps you put things in perspective when you talk with others across the United States.

Look for other articles in this newsletter about Treasure Mountain and the AASL conference experience.



Treasure Mountain

Treasure Mountain is a intellectual retreat where people from across the world gather to discuss the issues that are facing school libraries today.

The roll call of attendees included names frequently seen on LM_Net, AASL Forum, and on the covers of the professional journals. Coordinated by Dr. David Loerstcher, approxi-

mately ninety practicing school librarians and professors of library science and information discussed ways that libraries can better communicate our abilities to connect with the academic programs in our schools.

The featured speaker was Alli-

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**Virginia
Department of
Education,
Office Educational
Technology**

October 7 & 14

Flower of the Month

Calendula or Cosmos

Birthstone of the Month

Opal or Tourmaline

Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog Month

Computer Learning Month

Halloween Safety Month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

National Go On A Field Trip Month

Special Dates

Freedom from Bullies Week 16-22

Teen Read Week 16-22

World Rainforest Week 16-22

Mason Dixon Line Established (1767) 18

Sandwich Invented (1744) 19

Black Poetry Day 20

Electric Incandescent Light Demonstrated (1879) 21

Treasure Mountain

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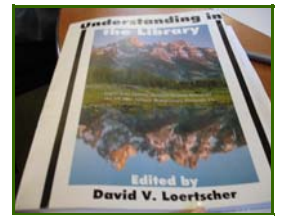
son Zmubda, a member of the ASCD cadre of trainers for *Understanding By Design*.

Understanding By Design is an educational theory that many school divisions are adopting as a means of changing the ways that teaching and learning occur. She expounded on how this relates to the library program. One of the questions she posed to the group was, "Where does your authority come from?" She asked us to answer that question for ourselves. According to her, our authority comes from our relationships with the people we work with and for. It comes from the quality and depth of our relationships. We rely on our attitudes in both verbal and non-verbal ways to communicate with one another.

There were several recent doctoral graduates and doctoral students present who shared their dissertations

with the group. Some of the comments they asked us to think about were:

- "Quit taking things so personal" It is a cultural problem in the field. It is not YOU they don't like, it is the sharing of their subject matter that they don't like.
- We need to refocus ourselves from thinking only about student achievement to thinking about helping teachers achieve.
- When school climates change and we encourage trust to grow between professionals then academic success will occur.



Theme of Treasure Mountain

Linking Libraries at AASL

When 61 people show up for a conference session at 8:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning, you can get nervous really quick! That is how many attended the Linking Libraries and Academic Achievement session at AASL. But our crew was up for the challenge and received many positive comments for the materials that have been produced showing the connection between the library and the classroom.

In a skit worthy of Oscar nomination, Marilyn Walls as the librarian and Elaine Marrion as the teacher gave outstanding performances as they demonstrated their collaborative abilities. Liz Hannegan, Kathy Lehman, Audrey Church, and Charlie Makela gave wonderful supporting role

performances as the second grade students who were to learn how to use atlases and other geographical references during their library time. (Mrs. Marrion has to go to a meeting, and Mrs Walls was to 'cover' the class for her).

Following the skit, the template was explained as well as the tracker and the scope and sequence document. The participants were then invited to separate into grade level groupings to learn more about the project.

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Pictures from Pittsburgh



Free Online Dictionary

With more than 100 million visitors to its site since 2003, TheFreeDictionary.com has developed a reputation as a multifaceted, virtual research hub for students and teachers. Not only can visitors use this free web site to look up words--it features more than 1 million entries for words in general use--but they also can access a virtual encyclopedia, thesaurus, and reference guide, among other tools. Students and teachers can use the site's flagship interactive dictionary feature to look up definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and usage examples from classic literature, as well as audio/phonetic pronunciation guides and word etymologies. The site also includes repositories for more obscure terms, including those specific to the medical, legal, and computer professions, as well as thousands of photos and diagrams. All information is either assembled by the site's editorial staff or obtained from other recognized, premier reference sources, developers said. "Most dictionary sites just 'dump' information onto a page. We decided to make our web site not only the

most comprehensive, but also the most organized and intuitive of all the dictionary sites," said Nick Simonov, president of Farlex Inc., the parent company of TheFreeDictionary.com. The idea, according to Simonov, is to provide every student and teacher who visits the site with "an array of information that paints a rich, complete picture of the entry in question."

<http://thefreedictionary.com>

(article first appeared in eSchool News, October 12, 2005)

Movies to books? Or Books to Movies-which came first?

AwesomeStories.com uniquely uses the Internet to link its story content to hundreds of thousands of the world's best on-line primary sources. Enjoy an interactive learning experience as you see relevant maps, pictures, artifacts, manuscripts and documents, IN CONTEXT, within each story. Take advantage of human-based searches for a safe, fast and fun way to learn the real story behind historic events, famous people, heroic exploits, legends, disasters, movies, plus topics of current and general interest.

Subscription are \$19.95 per individual but a school library can register for free.

There will be a Web-x training session on Awesome stories on Wednesday, October 26 from 2:00-2:30. To register for the online workshop, go to http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/staff_reg_form.html

Web-X allows you to participate in a training opportunity while sitting at your desk at your computer. Complete instructions will be sent when your registration is confirmed.

I had just taken to reading. I had just discovered the art of leaving my body to sit impassive in a crumpled up attitude in a chair or sofa, while I wandered over the hills and far away in novel company and new scenes... My world began to expand very rapidly,... the reading habit had got me securely.
H. G. Wells

Simple Strategies for Creating Strong Readers

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

- Invite a child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn

that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.

- Read a child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is hap-

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*We can not control the wind,
but we can adjust the sails.*

Parents and Reading

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pening in the story.

- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children who can't read well, can't learn. Help make a difference for a child.

The United States Department of Education has a selection of helpful articles to help parents become partners in their child's education. They are available from <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

Helping Your Child Learn History

The booklet is designed to help families prepare their children to achieve the lifelong task of finding their place in history by helping them learn what shaped the world into which they were born. Employing the latest research, the booklet is largely comprised of activities that can be experienced at home or in the community for children in preschool through grade 5, yet also features information about the basics of history; practical suggestions for how to work with teachers and schools to help children succeed in school; and a list of federal sources, helpful Web sites and suggested books for parents and children. (June 2004)

Helping Your Child Learn Science

Every day is filled with opportunities to learn science—without expensive chemistry sets or books. Parents don't need degrees in chemistry or physics to help their children learn science. All that is needed is a willingness to observe and learn with them, and, above all, to make an effort and take the time to nurture their natural curiosity. This booklet provides parents of children ages 3 through 10 with information, tools and activities they can use in the home and community to help their child develop an interest in the sciences and learn about the world around them. (March 2004)

Helping Your Child Learn Mathematics

Our increasingly technological world demands strong skills in mathematics, not only in the workforce but also in everyday life, and these demands will only increase over the lifetimes of our children. The major portion of this booklet is made up of fun activities that parents can use with children from preschool age through grade 5 to strengthen their math skills and build strong positive attitudes toward math. (March 2004)

Helping Your Child Become a Reader

Other than helping your children to grow up healthy and happy, the most important thing that you can do for them is to help them develop their reading skills. This booklet offers pointers on how to build the language skills of young children, and includes a list of typical language accomplishments for different age groups, suggestions for books, and resources for children with reading problems or learning disabilities.

(August 2002)

Helping Your Child With Homework

Homework can help children to develop positive study skills and habits, improve their thinking and memory abilities, and encourage them to use time well, learn independently, and take responsibility for their work. This booklet helps parents of elementary and junior high school students understand why homework is important and makes suggestions for helping children complete assignments successfully. (August 2002)

Helping Your Preschool Child

How well children will learn and develop and how well they will do in school depends on a number of things, including their health and physical well-being, social and emotional preparation, and language skills and general knowledge of the world. This booklet highlights techniques parents can use to encourage their children to develop the skills necessary for success in school and life by focusing on activities that make learning fun. (August 2002)

Helping Your Child Succeed in School

Every child has the power to succeed in school and in life and every parent, family member and caregiver can help. This booklet provides parents with information, tools and activities they can use in the home to help their child develop the skills critical to academic success. (September 2002)

Helping Your Child Through Early Adolescence

Learning as much as you can about the world of early adolescents is an important step towards helping your child through the fascinating, confusing and wonderful years from ages 10 through 14. Based on the latest research in adolescent development and learning, this booklet addresses questions, provides suggestions and tackles issues that parents of young teens generally find most challenging. (September 2002)

Helping Your Child Become a Responsible Citizen

Just as children must be taught to read and write, solve math problems, and understand science concepts and events in history, so must they be guided in developing the qualities of character that are valued by their families and by the communities in which they live. This booklet provides information about the values and skills that make up character and good citizenship and what you can do to help your child develop strong character. It suggests activities that you and your school-aged children can do to put those values to work in your daily lives and tips for working with teachers and schools to ensure that you act together to promote the basic values that you want your child to learn and use. (March 2003)